THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) Contracts and supplementary agreements comprising of repair and re-equipping, logistics supports, shore infrastructure, training of ships' crew, repair and technical documents etc. were signed with Russia on 20th January, 2004 for acquisition of "Admiral Gorshokov" with delivery schedu led in August, 2008. The cost of repair and modernization of Admiral Gorshkov including Logistic Support, Training and documentation is US Dollar 974 million. It is, however, apprehended that delay may take place in the delivery of the ship.

The existing contract with Russia is still valid. The process of examination of the scope and necessity for additional works projected by the Russian side has been initiated.

Shortfall in intake in IMA

1270. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether there have been shortfalls of 40 to 60 cadets per batch in the intake of Indian Military Academy (IMA) at Dehradun and whether this indicates that eligible youths in the country look for opportunities in other sectors than defence;

whether Indian officers at the level of Brigadiers and Lt. Generals earn just half of what their counterpart in Pakistan get; and

whether because of this low pay parity, Government faces the problem of acute deficiency in the ranks of Majors deployed in counter insurgency operations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There have been shortfalls in the intake of cadets in Indian Military Academy (IMA) (DE) at Dehradun. The shortfall in recruitment of officers in the services can be partly attributed to the change in the socioeconomic environment, the change in career preferences and availability of employment opportunities in other sectors.

No comparison of pay and allowances of Brigadiers and Lt. Generals of Indian Army has been made with that of their counterparts in Pakistan.

There is deficiency of officers in the ranks of Lt. Col. and below and is spread across all formations.

Increasing rate of attrition in DRDO

1271. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

whether the attrition rate when compared with the rate in 2000 is increasing in DRDO;

if not, the details of attrition rate, year-wise;

whether any steps are being taken to attract talent particularly the NRI scientists and freshers from the campuses;

if so, the details thereof and whether any measures are being contemplated to introduce performance based incentive packaged to DRDO; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In Defence